Pilferage of explosives

3663. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH SURYA': Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that pilferage of explosive is taking place in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that explosives are finding way to extremists and qucrry owners illegally;

(c) the number of major instances of explosive pilferage which has come to the notice during the last three years in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) the details of action taken for curbing their pilferage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) and (b) As per the Explosives Rules, 1983, no one can manufacture, possess, sell, transport, export and import of explosives without obtaining appropriate licence from the Department of Explosives. However, some instances of pilferage and illegal possession of explosives have come to the notice of the Government.

(c) and (d) Three cases of theft and 12 cases of illegal possession and sale of explosives have come to the notice during the last three years in the State of Tamil Nadu. All the 3 cases of theft arc under investigation by the local Police Authorities. Out of 12 cases of illegal possession and sale of explosives, 6 licences arc under suspension and in one case the licence has been revoked on court order, in 2 cases show-cause notices have been issued and in 3 cases the suspension of the licence is being processed.

It is obligatory under Explosives Rules, 1983 for all licensed manufacturers and explosives dealers to sell explosives to only valid licence holders and to maintain proper accounts and file monthly returns before the Department of Explosives. Compliance is monitored by way of scrutiny and verification of monthly returns filed by the manufacturers, sellers and other users of explosives about the transaction of explosives. Whenever any discrepancy or irregularity is noted in the monthly returns filed by any manufacturer/user of

explosives, action is taken by the Department of Explosives to suspend/cancel the licence. In addition to this, inspections of licensed premises are carried out by the officers of Department of Explosives regularly.

The Chief Controller of Explosives has issued instructions to all the Circle Offices to strictly monitor the explosives transaction. Further, under Rule 179 of the Explosives Rules, 1983, in addition to Chief Controller of Explosives, District Magistrate, Executive Magistrate subordinate to the District Magistrate, Commissioner of Police and Police Officer of the rank not below that of Sub-inspector, Chief Inspector of Mines and Officer subordinate to him are also empowered for search and seizure of explosives for violation of Explosives Rules.

Production of rubber

3664. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total production and consumption of rubber in India, State-wise;

(b) the total volume of export and import of rubber; and

(c) whether any steps have been taken by Government for plantation of rubber in non-traditional tribal areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI):

(a) State-wise production of Natural Rubber in India during 2000-2001 is given below:-

in tonnes

State	Production
Kerala TamilNadu	579866
North Eastern States	21611
Other States	14476
	14452
Total:	630405